



# Office of the National Ombudsman

## Regulatory Fairness Forum for Small Business

April 8, 2008  
Charleston, WV

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**Small business owners will have an opportunity to discuss issues regarding Federal regulatory compliance and enforcement during this Forum.**

*Have you or a small business owner you know been unfairly fined or penalized by a Federal government agency, or is a Federal agency enforcement action imminent?*

**WHO:** **SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens** and members of the Region III Regulatory Fairness Board will hear issues and comments about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. Small business owners, representatives of trade associations and community and business leaders are invited to participate, comment about compliance and enforcement of regulations by federal agencies and to learn more about the impact of federal regulations on small businesses.

**WHAT:** To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA and the National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness forums. The National Ombudsman will direct specific issues addressed at this forum to the appropriate Federal agency for a higher-level review of fairness than that in the enforcement action. In many instances, the National Ombudsman's action has resulted in federal agencies reducing or waiving penalties and/or compliance actions in cases of unfair or excessive regulatory enforcement.

**WHERE:** **Kanawha County Courthouse – Court Room 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**  
**407 Virginia Street, East** (Parking available in Kanawha Co. garage across the street)  
**Charleston, WV 25301**

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, April 8, 2008**  
**9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Registration**  
**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Roundtable**

The Charleston Area Alliance is pleased to host this event; members of the small business community, trade organizations and media are encouraged to attend. RSVPs should be made to Leanne Stowers at [LStowers@CharlestonAreaAlliance.org](mailto:LStowers@CharlestonAreaAlliance.org) or (304) 340-4253 before the forum. Small business owners or representatives unable to attend can contact the National Ombudsman for further assistance.

For additional information, visit the Office of the National Ombudsman's website at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman), or call José Méndez at (202) 205-6178.



**Make Your Voice Heard!**



All of the SBA's programs and services are provided to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance. Contact: Emma Wilson, 304.347.5220.